

From: [Becca Seth](#)
To: [Chace Pedersen](#)
Cc: [Justin](#)
Subject: Opposition to the Atlas Cellular Tower -ACU-23-00003 Atlas
Date: Wednesday, August 23, 2023 9:22:54 AM
Attachments: [Opposition to the Atlas Cellular Tower -ACU-23-00003 Atlas.pdf](#)

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Good morning Chase,
Attached is a letter regarding the proposed Atlas Cellular Tower at 4140 Manastash Road. Can you please reply to let us know that our letter was received?

Thank you,
Justin & Rebecca Seth

Rebecca and Justin Seth
491 Midfield Drive
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Chace Pedersen, Senior Planner
Community Development Services
411 N Ruby Street. #2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Re: Opposition to the Atlas Cellular Tower -ACU-23-00003 Atlas

Dear Community Development Services,

We recently learned of the construction of the cellular tower from a friend on Blazing Sky Lane, who was notified with a mailing from Kittitas County Community Development Services. It is concerning that only landowners within 500 feet of the proposed project were notified, considering that the smallest parcel in our area is 3 acres. This leaves a vast majority of the landowners in the Manastash area not notified of this proposal, us included when we are roughly one-quarter of a mile from the proposed project.

As I'm sure you know, the Manastash area is an exceptionally beautiful part of our valley & it's why many of us have chosen to build homes and live in this area. The 100' tall tower will have a visual impact on all in our area & goes against the 2021 Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan. Part of the plan states "RR-P1: The County shall promote the retention of its overall character by establishing zoning classifications that preserve rural character identified to Kittitas County." If the county allows the construction of this tower, you are doing the opposite of the goals & intent of the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan. This does not preserve rural character at all. The construction of the proposed project also opposes the following statements in the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan:

- RR-G7: The County should consistently work to preserve and maintain the rural character of Kittitas County for the benefit of its residents.
- RR-P16: Land use development within the Rural area that is not compatible with Kittitas County rural character or agricultural activities as defined in RCW 90.58.065(2)(a) will not be allowed.
- RR-G12: Permit residential development in rural areas which enhance and protect rural character
- U-P6: Community input should be solicited prior to county approval of utility facilities, which may significantly impact the surrounding community.

Not only are we concerned about the visual impacts of the proposed tower, but we are concerned for the health and well-being of our family, our neighbors, and the animals in our area. Studies show that electromagnetic radiation (EMR) can cause physical and physiological changes in humans due to the thermal effects generated by absorbing microwave radiation. EMR can lead to negative effects of the reproduction process, lead to genetic defects, and also

affect the central nervous system. Constant exposure to EMR can lead to headaches, fatigue, nausea, low sperm count, and cancer. Cell phone towers should not be constructed near homes for the health and safety of residents.

The application from Atlas also states that our community is underserved and that their tower will “alleviate current mobile network voice, data and first responder issues in an area that severely lacks reliable network coverage and capacity.” These claims are made by an out-of-state company that doesn’t have appropriate knowledge of our area to be making such statements. Our area has great coverage for cell phones, internet, satellite TV and we do not have first responder issues in our area. Once you get into the Manastash Canyon the coverage gets unreliable, but this is appropriate for being in the mountains. The proposed tower on the valley floor isn’t going to provide coverage that is any better in the canyon because the signal will be blocked by mountains and hills, just as it is now. The narrative that Atlas is using is false.

While you are deciding on allowing the proposed project or not, please keep both the people of the Kittitas Valley in mind & the fact that it goes against the rural landscape of the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan. The financial benefit of one individual is detrimental to Kittitas County and we urge you to reject the proposed project at 4140 Manastash Road.

Respectfully,

Rebecca and Justin Seth